Sheila A. Brennan

brennan.sheila@gmail.com
6100 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22205
703-863-0062
http://lotfortynine.org
@sherah1918

Education

George Mason University
Ph.D., U.S. History, January 2010
> Minor fields: History and New Media; Material Culture and Memory
> Dissertation: *Stamping American Memory, Stamp Collecting in the US, 1880s-1930s*
> Advisers: Roy Roseznweig, 2002-2007; Alison Landsberg, 2007-2009

University of Notre Dame
M.A., American Studies, May 1996
> Major Concentration: History; Minor Concentration: Material Culture
> Thesis: *"Do Your Children Play—or Go to the Movies?" Constructions of Childhood and Class in Progressive Reform Rhetoric from the Silent Era*
> Adviser: Jeanne H. Kilde

Bates College
B.A., American Cultural Studies, May 1994
> Minor: Spanish

Digital History Experience

Current position: George Mason University
> **Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, Fairfax, VA**
> *Associate Director of Public Projects,* January 2010-present
> **Department of History and Art History, Fairfax, VA**
> *Research Associate Professor, Department of History and Art History*
> December 2014-present
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> *Previous positions at George Mason University*
> Department of History and Art History, Research Assistant Professor, August 2010-2014
> Senior Digital History Associate, October 2005-December- 2009
> Grant and Technical Writer, January –September 2005
>
> **Responsibilities:**
> Develop, lead, and manage multiple digital history projects; co-author federal and private foundation grants; manage grant deliverables; work closely with institutional partners and RRCHNM staff on web development; coordinate project outreach efforts and publicity; present RRCHNM projects to diverse audiences.

Digital Projects

- **Primary Investigator and Director, 2015-17**: "Omeka for Art Historians," Getty Foundation grant will design Omeka themes and plugins addressing needs of art historians.

- **Co-Primary Investigator and Co-Director, 2015-16**: "Doing Digital History 2016: An Institute for Mid-Career American Historians," NEH, Office of Digital Humanities, Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities, to design a summer institute for training historians in digital humanities work.

- **Primary Investigator and Co-Director, 2014-15**: "Building a Digital Portfolio: Summer Institute for Art History Graduate Students," Getty Foundation-funded summer institute for training in digital humanities. http://arthistory2015.doingdh.org

- **Co-Primary Investigator and Technical Director, 2013-15**: "A Liberian Journey: History, Memory, and the Making of a Nation," National Science Foundation, online collecting and exhibition site (forthcoming).

- **Co-Director and Co-Primary Investigator, 2013-15**: "Doing Digital History: A Summer Institute for Mid-Career American Historians," National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Digital Humanities, Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities-funded summer institute for training historians in digital humanities work. http://history2014.doingdh.org/

- **Co-Director and Primary Investigator, 2013-14**: "ReBuilding the Portfolio: Digital Humanities for Art Historians," Getty Foundation-funded summer institute for training art historians in digital humanities. http://arthistory2014.doingdh.org/

- **Primary Investigator, 2013-14, Administrator, 2008-present**: National Endowment for the Humanities and National Park Service Saving America's Treasure Grant, *September 11 Digital Archive*, (http://911digitalarchive.org), site collects, preserves, and presents stories and digital record from the attacks on September 11, 2001.

- **Co-Director, 2012-present**: *Histories of the National Mall*, National Endowment for the Humanities-funded mobile web project to tell the history and development of the National Mall as a public space. http://mallhistory.org

- **Quality Assurance Lead and Administrator, 2007-present**: *Omeka* open source software project for building digital collections and publications (http://omeka.org), and affiliated projects, *Omeka.net* (http://omeka.net), *Omeka Everywhere*, and *Omeka-S*, funded with multiple grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Library of Congress, and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

- **Co-Director, 2011-14** *IMLS WebWise Conference* http://imlswebwise.org,: Institute of Museum and Library Services's signature conference on technologies for museums and libraries that combines panels, working groups, demonstrations, and unconference sessions.

- **Co-Director, 2011-present**: *Occupy Archive* (http://occupyarchive.org), digital archive and online collecting site that is documenting and saving the digital

evidence and stories from the Occupy protests in 2011.

- **Faculty, 2012-13**: *Another Week | Another Tool*, http://oneweekonetool.org, NEH Office of Digital Humanities-sponsored Summer Institute for Advanced Topics in Digital Humanities to envision, build, and launch a digital tool in one week.

- **Co-Investigator, 2012**: *Museum Computer Network Proceedings,* experimental digital conference proceedings created for the Museum Computer Network. *http://chnm.gmu.edu/mcn/2011proceedings/*

- **Primary Investigator, 2011**: *State of History Museum Websites*, survey and analysis of content from 115 history museum websites and their digital presence. http://bit.ly/stateofhistorymuseumweb

- **Project Manager, 2010-11**: *Civil Rights Across the Smithsonian*, Smithsonian 2.0 Grant Working Group, prototype website for aggregating content from multiple Smithsonian museums on the topic of African American civil rights movement.

- **Project Manager, 2009-2011:** *The People and the Post: A Digital Memory Book,* https://memorybook.si.edu, online collecting site designed and built for the *S*mithsonian National Postal Museum.

- **Project Manager, 2008-09**: *Mobile for Museums*, http://chnm.gmu.edu/labs/mobile-for-museums, Samuel L. Kress Foundation-funded research project produced a white paper on development and best practices in mobile technologies for museums, and included building of a prototype mobile website and accompanying Omeka plugins.

- **Project Manager, 2007-08**: *Gulag: Many Days, Many Lives* (http://gulaghistory.org), National Endowment for the Humanities-funded digital collection and exhibition site exploring the complex history of the Soviet Gulag prison system.

- **Project Manager and Outreach Co-Lead, 2005-08:** *Hurricane Digital Memory Bank* (http://hurricanearchive.org), Alfred P. Sloan Foundation-funded site to collect, preserve, and present the stories and digital record of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

- **Documentation Writer, 2005**: *ECHO Project*, project produced digital tools and organized digital project planning workshops.

Grant Proposals co-authored and funded:

- "Foundations of History," Teaching American History Grant, Department of Education, 2005.

- "Probing the Past: Virginia and Maryland Probate Inventories," Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 2006.

- "The Hurricane Digital Memory Bank: Preserving the Stories of Katrina, Wilma, and Rita and Advancing the Practice of Digital Memory Banks," Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, 2006.

- *"Omeka*, A Free, Open Source, Standards-based, Easy-to-Use, Web Publishing Platform," Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), 2007.

- "Art Museums and the Mobile Web: An Investigation of the State of the Art and Recommendations for Future Directions," Samuel H. Kress Foundation, 2008.

- *"Omeka Commons*: Preserving and Sharing Our Dispersed Digital Commonwealth," IMLS, 2010.

- *"September 11 Digital Archive*," Saving America's Treasures program from National Park Service & National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), 2010.

- "Hidden Histories of America's Front Lawn: mobile.mallhistory.us" NEH, 2011.

- "Omeka 3.0 MultiSite: A Network Version for the Scholarly Communications Ecosystem", (Co-PI), Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2012.

- "Doing Digital History," (Co-PI) NEH, Office of Digital Humanities, Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities, 2013.

- "Digital Humanities for Art Historians," (PI) Getty Foundation, 2013.

- "Building a Digital Portfolio," (PI), Getty Foundation, 2014.

- "Omeka for Art Historians" (PI), Getty Foundation, 2015.

- "Doing Digital History 2016: An Institute for Mid-Career American Historians," (Co-PI) NEH, Office of Digital Humanities, Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities, 2015.

Museum Experience

National Museum of the U.S. Navy, Washington, DC
Director of Education and Public Programs, August 1999-2004
Assistant Director of Education and Public Programs, June 1997-August 1999
- Initiated, developed, coordinated, and managed all museum public programming.
- Developed and wrote educational materials and adjusted to align with learning standards in 2 states and the District of Columbia.
- Managed volunteer docent program.
- Supervised small staff, 20 volunteers, and continuous flow of high school, undergraduate, and graduate interns.
- Developed, wrote, and coded pages for museum web site.

- Managed budget from two funding sources.
- Coordinated all museum publicity.
- Worked with DC area cultural and tourism organizations and museums to collaborate on projects and programs.
- Scheduled and gave museum tours.
- Wrote articles for museum foundation newsletter.

Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History: Dorothy and Jerome Lemelson Center for the Study of Innovation and Invention, Washington, DC
Research Assistant, February-May 1997
- Researched, wrote, revised, and edited portions of interdisciplinary online high school curriculum integrating history of technology into history classes, "Whole Cloth: Discovering Science and Technology Through American Textile History." http://invention.smithsonian.org/centerpieces/whole_cloth/
- Assisted Lemelson Center staff in public program production.

Honors and Awards

- Outstanding Public History Project, National Council on Public History for *Histories of the National Mall*, 2014
- University of Michigan Press-HASTAC Digital Humanities Publication Prize, 2012
- United States Postal Service's Moroney Award for Scholarship on Postal History, 2010
- Humanities, Arts, Science, Technology Collaborative (HASTAC) Scholar, 2009-10
- McKinnon-Morton Dissertation Fellowship, George Mason University, 2006
- American Association for State and Local History, Award of Merit for Leadership in History for *Hurricane Digital Memory Bank*, 2006
- Phi Alpha Theta, History Honor Society, 2005
- Webber Outstanding Graduate Student Award, History and Art History Department, George Mason University, 2003

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Stamping American Memory: Collectors, Citizens, Commemoratives, and the Post, University of Michigan Press, forthcoming, digital and print project. http://stampingamericanmemory.org

"Public, First," *Debates in the Digital Humanities 2015* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2015) forthcoming.

*"*Let the Grant Do the Talking," *Journal of Digital Humanities* Vol. 1, No. 4 Fall 2012 http://journalofdigitalhumanities.org/1-4/let-the-grant-do-the-talking-by-sheila-brennan/.

"Debating Identity and Origins in Early 20th-Century American Commemoratives," *Select Papers of the William M. Blount Symposia 2009-2011,* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2012).

"'Little Colored Bits of Paper' Collected in the Progressive Era," *Select Papers of the William M. Blount Symposia*, (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2010).

"Oral History in the Digital Age," *Oxford Handbook of Oral History*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010) with James Halabuk, Sharon Leon, Tom Scheinfeldt, and Kelly Schrum.

Encyclopedia of New England Culture (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005), 3 entries.

"Taking a Byte Out of the Archives: Making Technology Work for You" *Perspectives* (January 2005) with Douglas Mudd, Kirklin Bateman, and Paula Petrik http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/2005/0501/0501arc1.cfm

"The Vindex Special: Learning about Technology Through Advertising," *Magazine of History*, (Winter 1998) with Susan Smulyan and Carlita Kosty.

Research White Papers

"Scholars as Students: Introductory Digital History Training for Mid-Career Historians," White paper, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media: August 2015, http://hdl.handle.net/1920/9825

"State of the History Museum Web 2011," research report, November 16, 2011, http://www.lotfortynine.org/2011/11/state-of-history-museum-web-2011/

 "Mobile for Museums," white paper, Center for History and New Media, September 2009 with Sharon Leon and Dave Lester, http://hdl.handle.net/1920/9819

"Why Collecting Online is Web 1.5," Center for History and Media case study, March 2009 with T. Mills Kelly: http://hdl.handle.net/1920/9808

Digital Publications

"Outstanding public history project award: Histories of the National Mall," invited blog post, *History@Work*, March 18, 2015, http://publichistorycommons.org/award-histories-of-the-national-mall/.

"Making Room by Letting Go," invited blog post, *Preservation Nation,* National Trust for Historic Preservation, August 12, 2014, http://blog.preservationleadershipforum.org/2014/08/12/collections-making-room-by-letting-go/.

"New Initiative integrates LGBT history into NPS sites," *History @Work*, invited, June 16, 2014, http://publichistorycommons.org/new-initiative-integrates-lgbt-history/

"Collecting and Preserving Memories of the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes," *Ant Spider Bee*, invited, March 29, 2012, http://antspiderbee.net/2012/03/hurricane-digital-memory-bank/

"A First Look at the Occupy Archive," *In Media Res*, invited, December 9, 2011 with Sharon Leon, http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/imr/2011/12/09/first-look-occupy-archive

"Intentional Alts," with Jeremy Boggs, #*alt-academy: Alternative Academic Careers for Humanities Scholars* (MediaCommons, 2011) http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/alt-ac/pieces/intentional-alts

"Hurricane Digital Memory Bank: Preserving the Stories of Katrina, Rita, and Wilma," with Roy Rosenzweig, *Vectors Journal of Culture and Technology in a Dynamic Vernacular* 2, no.1, Fall 2006 *http://vectors.usc.edu/projects/index.php?project=75*

Lot 49, personal blog, for writing about digital public history, http://lotfortynine.org

Invited Presentations

Multiple invitations from faculty, museum and library professionals, and non-profit organizations to give Omeka workshops and to demonstrate RRCHNM tools.

"I Want to Use Your Collections," invited presenter, Cultural Heritage Informatics Management Forum, Catholic University, (June 2015).

"DH Centered in Museums?" invited lecture, John Nicholas Brown Public Humanities Center, Brown University, (March 2015) http://www.lotfortynine.org/2015/03/dh-centered-in-museums/

"Digital Project Outreach Strategies," invited workshop presenter, WebWise2014, Baltimore, MD (February 2014).

"Using Omeka for Creating Digital History Scholarship," invited workshop lead, "Getting Started in Digital History," American Historical Association annual meeting, Washington, DC (January 2014).

"4 P's of Digital Project Outreach," invited presenter, National Endowment for the Humanities Office of Digital Humanities Project Directors' Meeting, (October 2013, meeting canceled).

"Introduction to Digital Humanities for Historians," invited lecture, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC, (August 20, 2013), http://www.slideshare.net/sheilabrennan/introduction-to-digital-humanities.

"Reaching a Broad Community with Online Collecting," invited presentation, Lift Every Voice, IMLS National Forum, University of South Carolina College of Education and South Caroliniana Library, (May 16, 2013). http://www.slideshare.net/sheilabrennan/lift-every-voice-forum-online-collecting

"What is DH and Why Does it Matter to Museums?" invited lecture, George Washington University, March 21, 2013.

"Getting to the Stuff: Digital Cultural Heritage Collections, Absense, and Memory," invited lecture, Digital Dialogue, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, University of Maryland, November 2012. http://mith.umd.edu/podcasts/sheila-brennan-getting-to-the-stuff-digital-cultural-heritage-collections-absence-and-memory/

"Digital Project Outreach," invited presenter, National Endowment for the Humanities Office of Digital Humanities Project Directors' Meeting, September 2012.

"Historical Narratives Found on Stamps," invited lecture, University of Central Florida, February 2012.

"Publishing Research with Omeka," invited panelist, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, April 2010.

"What is Digital History?" guest lecture, University of West Virginia, November 2010.

"Collection Access in a Time of Technical Innovation and Fiscal Constraints - Challenges, Conflicts, & Solutions," invited panelist, Naval History Workshop, June 2007.

Conference Presentations

"Public History as Digital History as Public History," working group facilitator and co-organizer, National Council on Public History annual meeting, Nashville, TN (April 2015).

"Doing Digital Art History: Reflections on the Field," presenter, College Art Association annual meeting, New York, NY (February 2015).

"Ephemerality in Public History," panel organizer and presenter, National Council of Public History annual meeting, Monterey, CA (March 2014).

"Virtual Reality and Historical Perspectives," chair and commenter, American Historical Association annual meeting, Washington, DC (January 2014).

"Re-Making the Museum Blog," panelist, Museum Computer Network Conference, Montreal, QC, (November 2013) http://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/view/28490757?login=pressforward&title=press-forward-mcn2013

"Histories of the National Mall: Uncovering the History you Never See with your Mobile on the National Mall," panelist, Museum Computer Network Conference, Montreal, QC, (November 2013). http://slid.es/sbrennan/histories-of-the-national-mall

"Hurricane Katrina: Disaster Recovery and Documentation in Archival Collections," panelist, Society of American Archivists' Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, (August 15, 2013). http://www.slideshare.net/sheilabrennan/saving-some-of-the-stories-from-hurricanes-katrina

"Making a Public History Dissertation More Public," panelist, Society for History in the Federal Government Conference, (April 2013).
http://www.slideshare.net/sheilabrennan/brennan-making-apublichistorydissertationmorepublic

"Whose Civil Rights Stories on the Web? Authorship, Ownership, Access, and Content in Digital History," panel and workshop, Organization of American Historians-National Council on Public History Annual Meetings, April 2012.

"Graphs, Maps, Trees: Imagining the Future of Public Interfaces to Cultural Heritage Collections," working group participant, National Council on Public History, April 2012.

"History Museums are Not Art Museums–Discuss," roundtable discussion lead and organizer, Museum Computer Network conference, November 2011.
http://www.lotfortynine.org/2011/11/history-museums-are-not-art-museums/

"Constructing and Circulating Historical Narratives on Stamps," panel organizer and presenter, National Council on Public History Conference, Penscaola, FL, April 2011.
http://www.slideshare.net/sheilabrennan/telling-circulating-history-on-stamps

"Building a Collecting Site," presenter and demonstrator, Museum Computing Network Conference, October 2010.

"Remembering the Past, Shaping the Present with Commemoratives," presenter, 2010 Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposium, September 2010.

"Digital-Jump Start," co-facilitator, American Association of Museums Annual Conference, May 2010.

"Getting Your Content to Go: Mobile Content Design," co-facilitator, American Association of Museums Annual Conference, May 2010.

"Digital-Jump Start," co-facilitator and organizer for working group, National Council on Public History Conference, March 2010.

"Omeka for Museums," co-facilitator for workshop, National Council on Public History Conference, March 2010.

"Digitization for Dummies: Building Exhibits with Omeka," presenter, Virginia Association of Museums Conference, March 2009.

"Using Omeka in Small Museums," presenter, Small Museums Association Conference, February 2009.

"Omeka: Exhibit Collections Online in the Age of Web 2.0," case study presenter, Museum Computing Network Conference, November 2008.

"Hurricane Digital Memory Bank: Collecting and Sharing Stories from the Storms," panelist, Oral History Association Conference, October 2008.

"Crossing the Digital Divide," conference workshop lead, American Association for the History of Nursing, September 2008.

"'Little Colored Bits of Paper' Collected in the Progressive Era," presenter, Winton M. Blount Symposium on Postal History, Washington, DC, November 2006.

"Past/Forward: Collecting History in the Digital Universe," American Association for the History of Computing Conference, panelist, April 2006.

"Collecting and Preserving Hurricane Stories Online," poster designer, Texas Association of Museums Annual Conference, April 2006.

Digital Humanities Unconferences and Meetings

Art History in Digital Dimensions, University of Maryland, November 2014, planning meeting for a future conference on digital art history, sponsored by the Kress Foundation.

Documenting Iraq's Cultural Heritage: A Conversation about Technical, Legal, Scholarly Challenges,: University of Maryland, November 2014, workshop and grant planning meeting.

THATCamp:
  RRCHNM 2008-present, participant and workshop presenter
  AHA 2014, participant
  Florida, 2012, participant and workshop presenter
  MCN, 2010-2011, participant

Archiving Social Media, 2010, discussant

Summit on Digital Tools for Museum Education, 2010, discussant

Professional Service

- National Council for Public History, elected to Nominating Committee (term: 2012-2015)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services, grant reviewer (2015)
- Advisory Board member, "Lift Every Voice: Capturing and Teaching Civil Rights History" Institute for Museum and Library Services National Leadership planning grant, 2012-13
- Advisory Board member, "Indians in the Post Office," National Museum of American Indian exhibition, 2012-13
- Inaugural Committee and Member of the Annual DH Awards, 2012-present
- Advisor, New Urban Arts Center, Rhode Island Foundation grant, 2012
- National Endowment for the Humanities, grant reviewer, 2012
- American Association of Museums, Member of Media and Technology Committee and Judge for MUSE Awards (2007, 2008, 2011)
- Advisor, American Association of State and Local History affinity group, Internet Digital Encyclopedia Alliance, 2011

- National Science Foundation, grant reviewer, 2010
- Routledge, publisher, peer reviewer
- *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, peer reviewer